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TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

Published every evening, Sunday excepted, by the Tonopah Bonanza Printing Co., Incorporated.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS MEMBER NEVADA PRESS ASSN

W. W. BOOTH, EDITOR AND MANAGER

Terms of Subscription by Mail for Daily Bonanza:
One Year \$12.00 Three Months \$3.00
Six Months \$6.00 One Month \$1.00
One Week .30
Delivered by Carrier, \$1.25 per Month.

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Entered at the postoffice in Tonopah as second class matter.

PRICE REGULATION IN TONOPAH

SINCE the high price of living became the leading topic of the nation it is natural that Tonopah should not escape without provoking some comment on local conditions. The remarks in many cases are justified, apparently, from the arguments mustered by the critics, but in most cases the discussion has not been productive of any benefit to either side of the controversy. The consumer insists that he has to pay more for what he buys in Tonopah than elsewhere, and, not infrequently, the man with a family concludes by opening the pages of some mail order house and referring to the prices quoted on the basis of f.o.b. either in San Francisco, Los Angeles or Sacramento. In most cases these dealers quote prices for brands of their own making, so the buyer has no knowledge of whether he is receiving firsts, seconds or thirds. All he knows is that he finds catalogued certain commodities at prices which, to his biased vision, appear to offer a margin over the prevailing schedule of Tonopah dealers. While there are wide disparities in the prices, it should be borne in mind that there are also wide differences in the qualities of the goods and that no one, unless informed by experience, should essay to desert his home merchant for the sake of taking chances with the man at a distance, against whom there is no recourse in the event of dissatisfaction or disagreement. A better way would be to do something to bring the local buyer and the local merchant together to make a comparison of notes and wants that might eventuate in checking the steady outgo of money to mail order firms.

A prime factor that cannot be under-estimated is the difference between the man who buys for cash and the man who buys on credit without any positive understanding about when payment shall be made and credit curtailed. The cash buyer, under the present regime, things he is entitled to a preference which he does not receive at home, and therefore he goes outside and saves a few cents, which rightfully belong to him as a cash buyer. The same man believes that in Tonopah the prices are sustained to cover bad debts created through recklessness of merchants in opening accounts for those who have no standing in either a moral or financial sense and therefore at best cannot be regarded as more than the worst sort of a war risk. The question is suggested that if there were some better means of regulating payments merchants would feel more inclined to shade their prices and thus stimulate cash buying.

The business men of Ely have been troubled with exactly the same state of affairs, but they are not sitting idly by while the man with the payeeck calmly sends off for the chief commodities of household consumption. They have taken steps to minimize the evil through an organization having for its object a curtailment of credit and a cheapening of prices to cash customers. They believe they have solved the way to cut prices by beginning to cut off the deadbeats who fail to pay their bills month after month and are carried along through fear that they will go to some rival dealer. The objects of the association deserve the closest attention of Tonopah merchants. The prospectus of the association contains the following statement, which is a key to the whole modus operandi: "To some extent slow pay has the same effect as no pay, for the merchant has to meet the demands of the wholesale house or go out of business, and there are few who can carry extensive book accounts without being obliged to borrow money and pay interest. With the credit system entirely eliminated there would be no such losses and one cause of the high cost of living, of which all are complaining, would be removed."

SIGNS OF PROSPERITY

NOTHING can be more illuminating in the line of prosperity talk than the advertisements of the state and national banks of Nevada, whose quarterly reports are appearing in the newspapers of Nevada. With few exceptions they all reflect the same story of better days and more money in circulation, with their lines of deposits steadily increasing and surpluses remaining well within the margin of safety. Few states can point to the same number of banks holding reserves of fifty per cent of their liabilities such as are shown in these reports. Expansion appears notably in the agricultural districts, where receipts from farm and live stock products place an abundance of funds at the disposal of the man with good collateral in search of a loan. There was a time when the most agile wildcats found a convenient nesting place in Nevada, where they thrived owing to the laxity of the laws and the avoidance of official supervision of their systems of doing business. That day has gone and the smallest bank in the state today is as strong as the great institutions that boast of the millions they hold in custody for depositors. The banking system of Nevada has pruned out the speculative element and left the business in the hands of safe and conservative managers who believe that the best proof of banking efficiency is to carry sufficient liquid assets that they may always be fortified against the possibility of a run. The introduction of the postal savings system helps the banks, since it brings from hiding places saving that otherwise would never gain the recognition of financiers. It was only a brief ten years ago that the depositors of Nevada had their confidence severely shaken by the collapse of banks controlled by unscrupulous men, but it is an everlasting stigma that not one of those bankrupt institutions has

been wound up by the receivers, who appear intent on making a life job of their positions. The legislature four years ago made a feeble attempt to correct the abuse, but nothing came of it, as the matter was broached only while the legislature was gasping in the throes of death. However, enough was disclosed at that time to demonstrate what a wonderful field for investigation awaited action by the lawmakers. These insolvent institutions should be wound up without further delay by offering the remaining assets at auction or to the highest bidder through sealed proposals and the whole unsavory history buried where putrid reminiscences would not give offence.

TIME TO WAKE UP

THE aviation division of the United States army is advertising for a site for an aviation field where students may have the advantage of opportunity to prime themselves for practical service. The war department, combined with the navy department, will spend anywhere from half a million to a couple of million dollars to secure the right choice. Isn't this a prize worth working for? Why should not Nevada get right into the collar and pull to secure it? Not another state in the union offers the same problems in air navigation that are found in this state. Moreover, these problems are of the kind that baffle earnest students of aviation. Within twenty-five miles of Tonopah is one of the best sites for an airplane station that can be found in the country. Any one of the numerous dry lakes with which the desert abounds furnish ideal conditions for practice and the boosters of Nevada should not lose a moment in impressing the value of this asset on the gentlemen who are engaged in looking for a site where they can disburse a couple of millions within the next two years. The only aviation station of any standing is that situated opposite San Diego, on North Island, held only on sufferance. This is the training school responsible for failure of the airmen who were ordered to the front when the famous dead or alive order about Villa was issued by President Wilson. The aviators, when suddenly transported from sea level to an altitude of 4000 to 6000 feet, found their equipment and experience unfitted them for the duties they were expected to perform. They found in the first place that the arid country, with its light air and whimsical eddies, was something they could not contend with, owing mainly to the fact that they had been educated wholly at sea level in a humid atmosphere and an air so charged with moisture that they experienced no difficulty in making long flights and performing all sort of contortions far above the surface of the earth. In the arid country these men found their propeller blades would not grip the air and that the quality of gasoline operative on the coast failed to bring results over the sun-baked plains of Mexico.

All these problems can be studied out under clear skies and in a climate that ranks with the best on earth for 300 days of the year and the conditions should be commercialized without further delay that they might be placed before the proper authorities. One month's experience in the thin air of Nevada would serve better than ten years' instructions at the sea coast. There are no problems to call for initiative at San Diego, where the climatic conditions are abnormally perfect, but in these regions the novice would find the study of atmospheric conditions sufficiently interesting to develop the keenest interest in the profession of flying in heavier than air machines.

PAPER IN THE MAKING.

Wood Pulp is the Basis of Most of the Modern Product.

Two thousand years ago paper was made by hand in little cradles. The word paper is derived from papyrus, a plant from the leaves of which a pulp was made by pounding and macerating in water. Nowadays, of course, improved machinery is used to make paper, and in this one item of manufacture America leads the world.

Writing paper is made mostly from rags, but for practically all other grades wood pulp is the basis. The wood used is spruce or poplar or hemlock. Poplar is used for fine book papers and spruce pulp goes into newspaper, wall paper and bag paper. The fine wood pulp must, of course, be treated with a preparation containing clay, dyes and other ingredients and called "stuff" before it finally becomes paper. But by a careful process of filling in the open spaces with clay and pressing through heavy steel rollers or mangles, the wood pulp takes on the appearance and texture of paper.

As the product comes from the paper machine it is wound off on a reel, making a large roll. A roll of newspaper will weigh almost a ton and is often handled by a derrick, says the Philadelphia Ledger.

SONGS OF THE FELINES.

Why Lions and Tigers Can Roar and Cats Pur and Mew.

One of the most interesting discoveries made lately is that of Sir Richard Owen that the lion roars, instead of purring, simply because the hyoid bone in his throat is loose.

In the cat this bone is stationary, so that the cat purrs and cannot roar. But in the lion and tiger the hyoid is loose, and therefore even when calling to their mates the larger members of the cat family roar. The roars of the jaguar and leopard are like "hoarse, barking coughs, an interval of about one second separating the expiratory efforts," says this observer. They may be easily reproduced or imitated by sawing a piece of thin board with a coarse toothed saw. The cheetah, however, calls with a decided mew, very much like that of the cat.

R. I. Pocock, superintendent of the London zoo, explains that those feline, or cat family, that have an elastic ligament between the ceratohyal and the upper elements of the suspension-lion, tiger, leopard, jaguar-roar, but never purr, while all the other species of the feline, with unusually constricted hyoids, purr, but never roar, and among these are the cheetah and puma.—New York Sun.



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